the following papers:—

II. (a) Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

(c) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 and the Audit Report thereon. (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-876/96)

III. Statements showing the action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the Sessions shown against each:—

(1) Statement No. XXXV Hundred and Forty Fifth Session, 1988.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1028/96)

(2) Statement No. XXV Hundred and Fiftieth Session, 1989.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1029/96)

(3) Statement No. XXXVIII Hundred and Fifty First Session, 1989.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1030/96)

(4) Statement No. XXXVI Hundred and Fifty Third Session, 1990.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1031/96)

(5) Statement No. XXXIX Hundred and Fifty Sixth Session, 1990.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1032/96)

(6) Statement No. XXVIII Hundred and Sixtieth Session, 1991.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1033/96)

(7) Statement No. XXX Hundred and Sixty First Session, 1991.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1034/96)

(8) Statement No. XXVII Hundred and Sixty Third Session, 1992.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1035/96)

(9) Statement No. XXIII Hundred and Sixty Fifth Session, 1992.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1036/96)

(10) Statement No. XXII Hundred and Sixty sixth Session, 1993.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1037/96)

(11) Statement No. XVII Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session, 1993.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1038/96)

(12) Statement No. XIX Hundred and Sixty Eighth Session, 1993.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1039/96)

(13) Statement No. XVI Hundred and Sixty Ninth Session, 1993.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1040/96)

(14) Statement No. XVI Hundred and Seventieth Session, 1994.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1041/96)

(15) Statement No. XIII Hundred and Seventy First Session, 1994.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1042/96)

(16) Statement No. XI Hundred and Seventy Second Session, 1994.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1043/96)

(17) Statement No. X Hundred and Seventy Third Session, 1995.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1044/96)

(18) Statement No. VI Hundred and Seventy Fourth Session, 1995.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1045/96)

(19) Statement No. IV Hundred and Seventy Fifth Session, 1995.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1046/96)

(20) Statement No. III Hundred and Seventy Sixth Session, 1996.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1047/96)

(21) Statement No. II Hundred and Seventy Eighth Session, 1996.
(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1048/96)

STATEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the following Reports:—

(1) 92nd Report (7th Lok Sabha)

on Purchase and Stores

(2) 93rd Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Wheel & Axle Plant

(3) 126th Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Central Railway—Idling of Imported Invertors and Deposit Works on Railways

(4) 192nd Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Western Railways Immobilisation of Railway coaches consequent on fire during shooting of 'The Burning Train' and Eastern Railways—Damages to and deficiencies in wagons delivered to a Steel Plant

(5) 199th Report (7th Lok Sabha) on wagon availability on the railways

(6) 2nd Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Metro Railway, Calcutta

(7) 10th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Coaching Services

(8) 66th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Western Railway—Construction of a metre gauge line from Dabla to Singhana

(9) 10th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Manickgarh—Chandur New BG Line and Chitradurg—Rayadurg New MG Line

(10) 12th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Railway Electrification

(11) 13th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Metropolitan Transport Project, Calcutta

(12) 16th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Wheel and Axle Plant, Yelahanka

(13) 22nd Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Madras Atomic Power Project

(14) 67th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Uneconomic purchase of engines for Shaktiman vehicles

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THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, there is a statement to be made by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Gujral Ji. I have to make an announcement. Mr. Gujral has just signed an agreement, and soon after, he is making a statement in this House. So, only the English copies are available. The Hindi copies will be available a little later. I thought I should tell you about it. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Could we seek clarifications also?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. If you want to seek clarifications, you can do so.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, I would like to make one submission. Madam, after the Minister's statement, we would like to raise a discussion on that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are having clarifications.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We would like to raise a discussion on it and we would like some time fixed up for it in the Business Advisory Committee. *(Interruptions)* Let the statement be made.

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): मैडम, आज जो क्लेरिफिकेशन होने हैं, उनको आज होने दीजिए। यदि डिसक्शन करना चाहें तो बाद में करते रहेंगे।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me ask Mr. Gujral. Gujral Sahib, the agreement which you have signed today is very important and now you are making a statement about it. The hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, wants that later on, if you find time, we can have a full-fledged discussion on it.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Yes, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee which we have today, we will find time for it. The hon. Members want to seek a few clarifications. We can take them up.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, before I start reading the statement, with your permission. I would like to inform the hon. Members that there may be a few slips in the typing. So, I would request

the hon. Members to check it up with what I am saying.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Visit of Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to India and signing of a treaty on sharing of Ganga Waters at Farakka

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Madam, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid on official visit to India from December 10 to 12, 1996 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had meetings with our President, Vice-President, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. She held detailed talks with the Prime Minister and myself. She also met leaders of political parties. These talks were held in a most warm and friendly atmosphere. The Bangladesh Prime Minister also paid a visit to Ajmer and Jaipur during her stay in India.

This was the first visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister to India since she assumed office in June this year. The visit however comes as the culmination of series of exchanges initiated shortly after our government took office. Earlier I had the privilege of visiting Dhaka in September, and of receiving my Bangladesh counterpart in November. This period of intense interaction has placed our relations on an entirely new footing. Progress is being made on all issues in our bilateral relations. The prominent issue in our bilateral ties, over the last two decades has been the issue of sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka. I am honoured to state that Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh have today signed a new Treaty on the sharing of Ganga waters. We are confident that this Treaty would be a landmark in our bilateral relations. The Treaty protects the interests of India and at the same time helps Bangladesh by providing an adequate share of Ganga waters to that country.

I shall be laying with your permission a copy of the text of the Treaty with its Annexures on the table of the House. According to the Treaty, sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka between India and Bangladesh will be on the basis of a formula which is at Annexure I. The key merit of this formula is that it shares available waters on a basis which is fair and equitable. The formula also takes into account the basic requirements and minimum needs of both sides. Therefore during the critical period within the lean season i.e. from March 1 to May 10, India and Bangladesh each shall receive a guaranteed flow of 35,000 cusecs of water in an alternating sequence of three 10-day periods each. This is aimed at meeting the fundamental requirements of both our countries through a just and reasonable sharing of the burden of shortage. The Treaty also has the merit of being a long term arrangement combined with scope for reviews at shorter intervals to study the impact of the sharing formula and to make needed adjustments. While the Treaty will be for 30 years and renewable on mutual consent, there is a provision of mandatory reviews at the end of 5 years and even earlier after 2 years with provisions for adjustments as required. Pending a fresh understanding after the review stage, Bangladesh would continue to receive 90% of its share in accordance with this new formula. We would thus avoid a situation where there is no agreement on sharing of Ganga waters between India and Bangladesh.

The signing of the Treaty between India and Bangladesh is a fitting tribute to the special quality of our relations. Indo-Bangladesh cooperation is based on a history of shared sacrifices, sanctified with the blood of the martyrs who laid down their lives in 1971. It is